SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL SITE INSPECTION PROTOCOL

Date: August 5, 2008

The Sediment and Erosion Control(S & E) Division of the Durham County Engineering Department is charged with enforcement of the Durham City/County Erosion Control Unified Development Ordinance. The engine for enforcement lies with the performance of field inspections at active construction sites. There are on average, 170 active project sites per month. Each active project is field inspected at least once during each calendar month. Historically, 10-15% of these sites are inspected multiple times each calendar month. Compliance issues, heavy rain events, project size/complexity and citizen complaints/inquiries all serve to trigger additional inspections of particular sites. For example, additional inspections can be generated as a result of citizen complaints about activity that has been started, sometimes without notification to this office. Finally, newly submitted projects more often than not have a requirement for tree protection fencing attached to them. This office generates an initial inspection report related to the tree fence installation, prior to issuing a land disturbance permit. Once the permit is issued, common practice is to perform a field inspection at the newly permitted site within ten days of the permit issuance. Historically, the above activities have generated an average of between 180 and 200 inspections per month which equates to 65 inspections per inspector per month.

The S & E division has a sophisticated database that serves as a tracking device to insure that all active projects are inspected each calendar month. At the beginning of each month, an active project list is generated. As inspectors perform field inspections, they enter the completed inspection dates into the database. Subsequently, the inspected projects are removed from the monthly uninspected project list, leaving a clear account of those projects still in need of inspection during that calendar month. At the end of each month a list of completed inspections, by project, is prepared.